

## Bird Beak Buffet

Source of activity: *Growing up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children*. Houston, TX: Council for Environmental Education, 2009. Print. Pages 42-43

Letter wall vocabulary: Beak

Concept vocabulary: adaptation, feature, shape, tool, utensil, preen, nectar

### Materials needed:

- Set of eating utensils for each child: a spoon, a fork, chopsticks (or two craft sticks), two toothpicks
- Various shapes of cooked pasta, sunflower or pumpkin seeds
- Serving utensils and small plates
- “beak” tools and “food from Beak Type and foods station materials

### Warm Up:

Ask children:

- “What kinds of foods do you like to eat? What do you use to eat these foods (fork, fingers and so on)?”
- “Why do you think we eat some foods with a spoon, some with a fork, and some with our fingers?”
- “What do animals use to eat food?” (Answers may be teeth, paws, claws, just their mouths, etc.)
- “Have you ever seen a bird eat? What do birds use to eat?”

### Procedure:

- Provide each child with a clean set of eating utensils and a plate container the pastas and seeds. Encourage them to try all the utensils to eat each kind of food and to avoid picking up the food with their hands.
- After children try the utensils, put one utensils on an empty plate. Ask children to place on an empty plate. Ask children to place alongside it any food they found easy to eat with that utensil. Why did this utensil work well with these foods? Repeat for each utensil.
- We eat with utensils, and certain utensils work best with certain foods. Do birds use utensils to eat? How do birds eat?
  - Teacher--Draw a bird head without a beak. What’s missing? What should the beak look like? Do all bird’s beaks look this way? What foods might this bird eat?
- Show children the BIRD CARDS and/or pictures of local birds. What kind of food might each bird eat? Why do they think so? How might each bird’s special beak help it find, catch and eat food? Children may recognize some birds from their work at the *Bird Beak Type and Food* stations.

**Wrap Up**

- What foods are easy to eat with a spoon? A fork? With chopstick (or craft sticks)? With toothpicks? Why?
- Which bird “beaks” are best for each of the bird “foods” we tried?
- How can looking at a bird’s beak help us guess what it eats?
- View the videos on different birds. Have each child make a Nature Notebook on birds. Ask them to draw a picture after each video. (This activity should be done over several days.)